

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Communities in Schools****Federal Tax ID: 06-1689908****Project Title:**

## Communities in Schools - Career Exploration Program

**State Funding Requested: \$ 15,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)****Brief Project Description:**

Communities In Schools

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$1,361,071**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Career Exploration Opportunities

An innovative distance education, virtual video conferring program that focuses on informed career decisions. Seventy students enrolled in the 2006-2007 school year, from Anchorage, Buckland, Deering, Holy Cross, Kotzebue, McGrath, Takotna, and Valdez last year, with an anticipated growth to 150 students in the next school year.

**Project Timeline:**

This project will be funded through FY 09.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Tom Morgan

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Contact Name: Tom Morgan

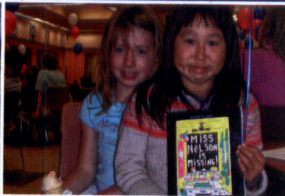
Phone Number: 907-333-4003

Address: P.O. Box 140090 Anchorage, Alaska 99514-0090

Email: cisakstatedirector@alaska.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No





# Network Portfolio

Tom Morgan : State Director  
Bobbi Ramos Olson : Chair, State Board of Directors



# Synopsis

With approximately one-third of U.S. public school students failing to graduate with their peers, Communities In Schools is needed more than ever.

## CIS of Alaska Network

### State Office

Anchorage, Alaska

#### State Office Initiatives:

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO)
- Ma'o Tosi's PRIDE Program



### Affiliates

#### CIS of Bethel

Lower Kuskokwim School District

#### CIS of Nome

Nome Public Schools

#### CIS of Juneau

Alaska Staff Development Network and Juneau Borough Schools

#### CIS of Mat-Su

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

#### CIS of Anchorage

Anchorage School District, AVAIL & East High School

- In the 2006-2007 year, CIS of Alaska network served (or brokered services and resources) for 5,649 children and youth statewide.
- Of the CIS students served through Affiliate programs who were tracked for the following measures in the 2006-2007 school year, 81% improved their attendance, 64% improved their behavior and 80% (tracked for drop out risk) remained in school. (Note: These outcomes are not reflective of the total number youth served as not all sites and programs tracked the same measures.)
- For approximately the first month of CIS of Alaska programs and services this school year, at the cost of \$72,750 the CIS of Alaska network has tracked \$158,800 of leveraged services and resources; A 46% return on investment (ROI), with \$1,476,459 projected in leverages services/resources for the 2007-2008 program year.

<b>CIS of Alaska Proposed 2008-2009 Operating Budget:</b>	<b>\$1,361,071</b>
<b>CIS of Alaska Revenue &amp; Minimum In-Kind from Other Sources:</b>	<b>\$882,071</b>
<b>State of Alaska FISCAL NOTE:</b>	<b>\$479,000</b>

Dollar for dollar, the right investment in our children's future.

# Communities In Schools of Alaska

## Who we are

Organized in 2003 to serve at-risk students in rural Alaska, we are founded on the recognition that most students who drop out of school are dealing with a variety of obstacles that present barriers to their education and that only a few of these are school-related; most stem from overarching family and community issues like poverty, alcohol and drugs and violence.

We recognize that numerous public & private services already exist in our community to help children & their families overcome these obstacles. However, given:

- the difficulty of deciphering the maze of resources available
- the time & transportation necessary to reach them

**SERVICES ARE NEARLY INACCESSIBLE FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO NEED THEM MOST.**

## What we do

We are not another social service agency! We broker in an effective and coordinated way, **EXISTING** community services through the schools.

We believe that there are 5 basics to helping kids stay in school and prepare for life:

1. A one on one relationship with a caring adult
2. A safe place to learn and grow
3. A healthy start and a healthy future
4. A marketable skill to use upon graduation
5. A chance to give back to peers and the community

Through school-based programs and special programs, CIS of Alaska is creating a network of social services, businesses, community resources and volunteers that work together to break down barriers to ensure even the most vulnerable of our children have access to these basics and core needs.

## How we know it works

Common sense tells us that health and human services are critical for all children... and that by making resources available at the school campus more of our community's most at-risk kids will be able to access them. But how we know that we are helping kids learn, stay in school, and prepare for life is we evaluate our efforts on an ongoing basis by tracking indicators of student success, like: attendance and stay-in-school rates, improved academic performance and improved behavior to determine the impact of our programs.

In addition to our 2006-2007 year results, here are highlights of our successes:

- Since implementation in January 2005, CIS of Juneau has served approximately 452 students pre-K to 12th grade. Of that number served through the Care Coordinator, only 16 dropped out of school; 96% stayed in school, a much higher rate as compared to the general population.
- We have sponsored Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (preliteracy program) in two pilot projects; Nome and Juneau to hugely positive results with over 600 children being served to date. Additionally, the Rotary has begun a pilot program in Wainwright, AK and the Girdwood Rotary is poised to begin a program there. Funding has also been received to start pilot programs in Mat-Su and Mt. View.
- Ma'o Tosi's PRIDE program has come under the umbrella of CIS of Alaska and just recently completed a successful summer program targeting the Mt. View community, serving 405 youth. PRIDE will provide an after-school program at East High School with additional support to the Anchorage School District's AVAIL program. Recently, Ma'o and the PRIDE program received the Anchorage Chamber Gold Pan Award for Premier Service to Youth.
- The Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO) program, a web-based video conferencing, distance education outreach program to rural communities, founded by GCI, came under the umbrella of CIS of Alaska in 2006. Seventy students participated in CEO last school year and currently 121 are enrolled with capacity for 150.
- The Helping Agencies Forum, designed to bring youth serving agencies together to discuss issues and explore ways to maximize their resources and work together is enjoying good success and serves as a connector tool to existing resources; the trademark of what CIS is all about.
- Through partnership with the Alaska Staff Development Network (ASDN), CIS of Alaska co-hosted four Drop-out Symposiums (in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau) to build awareness of the drop-out issue and help professionals and practitioners identify major risk factors and effective prevention strategies based on current, evidence based research conducted by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (in collaboration with CIS National). Based on the critical nature of this issue and the success of the Symposiums, CIS of Alaska and ASDN plan to replicate this event annually, offering valuable new information and training around the drop-out issue to educators, youth serving professionals and practitioners and the community at large.



# Facts

- Communities In Schools (CIS) of Alaska offers an integrated educational and student support delivery system through providing schools with general prevention services (level 1) and individual students with case management/intervention (level 2) services. We work to positively “move the needle” on the drop-out problem through identifying youth needs and gaps in services, promoting community engagement, coordinating partnerships, mobilizing resources and brokering services that help to keep our kids in school. We increase the chances for student success through helping to meet core needs and by focusing on the kids in most need.
- Communities In Schools (CIS) of Alaska is part of the CIS National drop out prevention network, represented by 28 states across the nation.
- CIS of Alaska incorporated in 2003. In fall 2005, CIS of Alaska was established as a full-time, dedicated organization with a State Office in Anchorage.
- The CIS of Alaska statewide network is comprised of five Affiliate communities (hosting programs and services in 13 school sites) and three innovative initiatives; the Career Exploration Program (CEO), the Ma'o Tosi PRIDE Program and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- In the 2006-2007 year, CIS of Alaska network served (or brokered services and resources) for 5,649 children and youth statewide. CIS Affiliates served 4,977 students and CIS sponsored special programs served 602 children ages 0-5 plus another 70 CEO students.
- CIS of Alaska has proven that this integrative student support services model is effective and cost efficient. Of the CIS students served through Affiliate programs who were tracked for the following measures in the 2006-2007 school year, 81% improved their attendance, 64% improved their behavior and 80% (tracked for drop out risk) remained in school. (Note: These outcomes are not reflective of the total of youth served as not all sites and programs tracked the same measures.)
- In the 2006-2007 program year, the CIS of Alaska network had 245 volunteers whom provided 5,134.5 hours of service.

# Network Overview

Affiliate Programs	Youth Served 2006-2007 School year	# Local Partnerships (year end)
CIS of Anchorage AVAIL *Level 2 intensive East *See note below	96	3
CIS of Bethel	360	53
CIS of Juneau *Level 2 intensive	214	21
CIS of Mat-Su *Level 1 district focus	3632	5
CIS of Nome	675	12
Statewide Initiatives: 1. CEO 2. Imagination Library (Juneau & Nome)	70 602	12 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>114</b>
NOTE: The CIS TOSI PRIDE program data will be reported in 2007-2008 due to most services occurring after the start of the new program year (July 1, 2007).		

# Highlights of State Office Initiatives

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Children ages 0-5 who are registered for the program receive a book every month to encourage a love of reading and learning. If a family has more than one pre-school aged child, each child may participate and receive his/her own library. Developmentally appropriate books arrive monthly through the mail and are addressed to the child. Current IL sites are in Nome, Juneau and Wainwright with planned replication in Anchorage, Mat-Su and Girdwood. The Imagination Library has been endorsed by New Beginnings, Rotary District 5010, Weed and Seed of Mountain View and Conoco Phillips. CIS of Alaska is taking the lead to assist interested communities in replicating the Imagination Library in their areas.

## Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO)

An innovative distance education, virtual learning video conferencing program that focuses on informed career decisions. Seventy students enrolled in the 2006-2007 school year, from Anchorage, Buckland, Deering, Holy Cross, Kotzebue, McGrath, Takotna and Valdez last year, with an anticipated growth to 150 students this school year.

## Ma'o Tosi's PRIDE Program

PRIDE works to keep youth off the streets, out of trouble and in school by fostering optimism through positive adult relationships in safe environments, utilizing a myriad of educational and cultural activities and groups. The summer youth program reached 405 youth, most from lower socioeconomic communities in the Municipality. This school year PRIDE has a new After School program based at East High School and provides AVAIL with CIS services. In September Ma'o Tosi and the Tosi CIS PRIDE program received the Anchorage Chamber Gold Pan Award for Premier Service to Youth.

# Return on Investment

Current Network Partnerships (Month 1, 2007-2008)	Minimum Leveraged Services & Resources \$\$\$ Value – Mo. 1 (includes in-kind support)
57	\$ 158,800

For approximately the first month of CIS programs this school year, at the cost of \$72,750 the CIS of Alaska network has tracked \$158,800 of leveraged services and resources; A 46% ROI, with \$1,476,459 projected in leveraged services and resources for the 2007-2008 program year.

For every dollar invested, through building collaboration, brokering services and leveraging community assets, CIS of Alaska adds value to build return on investment.



# A Call for Action

The drop out issue is a concern for Alaskans. In the 2005 - 2006 school year, the Alaska statewide graduation rate for all students was 60 percent.

Over the past 30 years, Communities In Schools (CIS) has grown to become one of the most effective drop-out prevention strategies in the country with a proven track record of moving the needle on drop-out statistics through implementing research and evidence-based services that improve achievement. In addition, CIS National has developed a major public policy platform emphasizing the importance of community-based, integrated student services for at-risk students delivered through dedicated staff in schools and which has been incorporated into federal legislation being led by Senator Kennedy and linked to reauthorization of NCLB.

In 2003, the decision was made to develop a local presence for this national organization in Alaska. As our local Network has grown we have had the opportunity to serve in both urban and rural areas, and have addressed each community with equal effectiveness at meeting their individual area needs. As a result, we have enjoyed success at improving educational outcomes in our Network Schools. Our strategy of creating local school-based networks of community resources, volunteers, social services, and businesses that work together to break down barriers to education allows teachers to teach, and students to finally have the opportunity to focus on learning.

At that same time as we were growing our CIS of Alaska presence, CIS National had engaged the Bridgespan Group (a non-profit organization applying leading-edge management strategies, tools and talent to help other non-profit organizations and foundations achieve greater social impact) to conduct a strategic plan that included an evaluation of both the National Network and their local affiliates. Their conclusions emphasized the value of establishing statewide organizational infrastructures to oversee and coordinate regional initiatives. Based on this recommendation, and our local experience, CIS of Alaska has adopted a sustainability strategy that will help us meet this strategic benchmark. This will be accomplished by creating regional entities to foster the growth and expansion of current Affiliate communities.

## Statewide Sustainability and Regional Expansion:

SouthEast Region to include: Juneau

Southcentral Region to include: Anchorage and Mat-Su

Northwest Region to include: Bethel and Nome

\$479,000 Request from Alaska State Legislature					
Year One	State Infrastructure	Southeast Region	Southcentral Region	Northwest Region	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$146,000</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>	<b>\$142,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$479,000</b>

Anticipated Minimum ROI from the CIS of Alaska Network is 46%!



Dollar for dollar; the right investment in our children's future.

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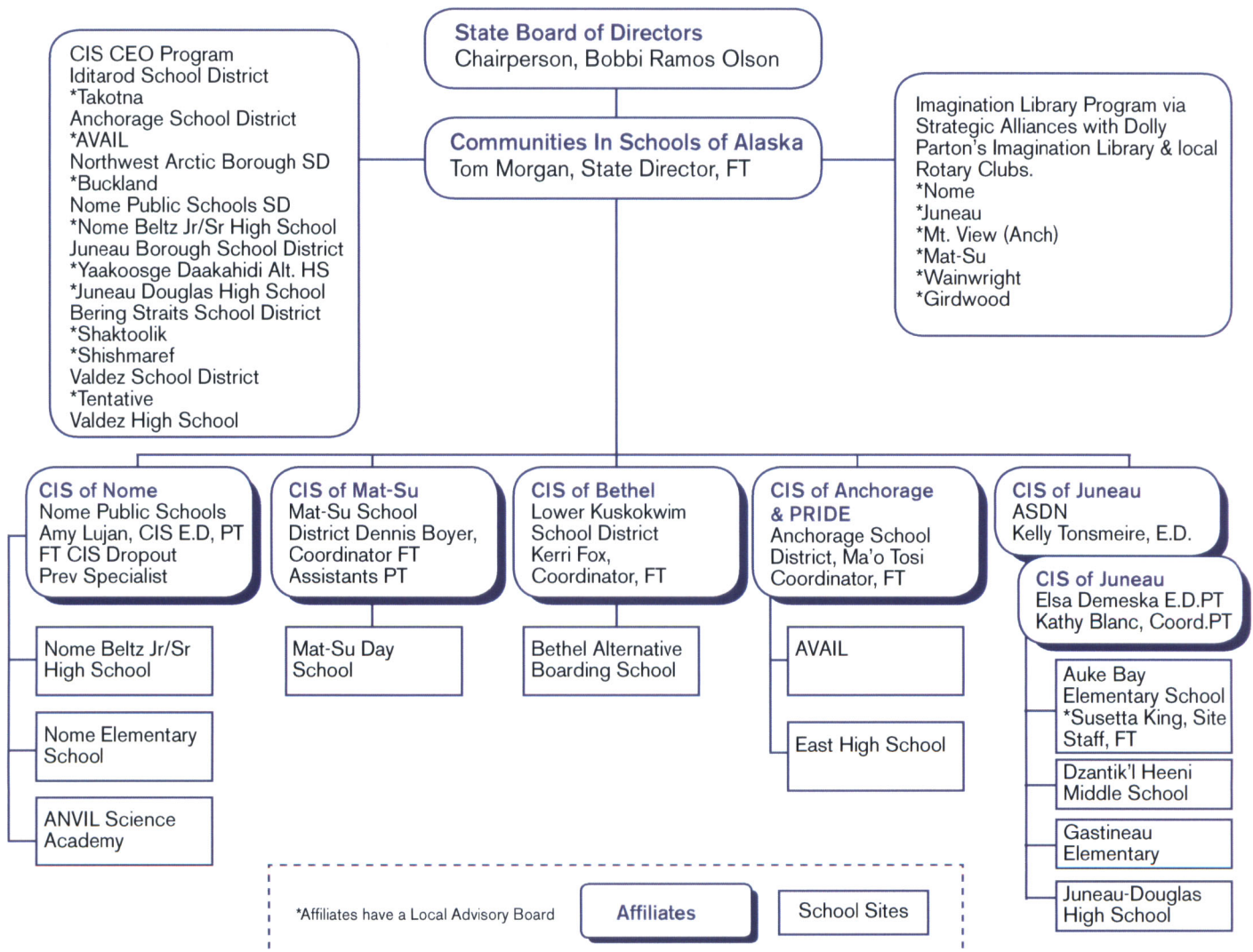
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**Pam Lloyd, Senior Program Manager**  
GCI School Access  
Anchorage, AK

## Network Structure





# Thank You

National Office of Communities In Schools  
U.S. DOJ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Malaspina Glacier Investments  
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the Dollywood Foundation  
New Beginnings  
Weed and Seed of Mountain View  
CIRI  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Anchorage Community Land Trust/Weed and Seed East Anchorage  
Municipality of Anchorage  
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals  
Anchorage Youth Development Coalition  
Anchorage School District  
Matanuska Susitna Borough School District  
Alaska Staff Development Network  
Nome Public Schools  
Association of the Education of Young Children Southeast Alaska  
Yukon Kuskokwim School District  
Conoco Phillips  
Alyeska Pipeline Services Company  
First National Bank Alaska  
GCI  
AT&T Alascom  
Porcaro  
Alaska Department of Labor, Division of Business Partnerships  
The Denali Youth Fund  
Alaska's Youth First Initiative  
Taco Bell of Alaska  
Anchorage School Business Partnerships  
Alaska Distance Learning Partnership  
Alaska Commission on Post Secondary Education  
Alaska Vocational Technical Center  
The Helping Agencies Forum  
Muldoon Job Center  
The Anti-Gang Task Force/Policy Committee  
Anchorage Juvenile Justice Group  
The Diversity Minority Council  
Plan B~ Events by Bobbi  
LaForest Consulting, LLC  
Perceptive Leadership  
Diff3r3nt By D3sign  
M&M Music and Mentoring  
Holland America  
Anchorage Community YMCA  
Alaska Family Services, Inc.  
Youth Courts of Alaska  
College of Business and Public Policy, UAA  
We have also enjoyed the support of Alaska State Senators, Representatives and the Congressional Delegation and many statewide individuals





Communities In Schools of Alaska is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) agency (Tax I.D. # 06-1689908) dedicated to removing barriers to education for youth, working to increase graduation rates and reduce drop-out rates.

Physical Address: 1569 South Bragaw Street, Suite 205 Anchorage 99508  
Mailing Address: PO Box 140090 Anchorage, AK 99514-0090  
Phone: (907) 333-4003 (907) Fax: (907) 333-4008 E-Mail: [cisak@alaska.net](mailto:cisak@alaska.net)  
Visit us on the web at: [www.cisalaska.org](http://www.cisalaska.org)